

Senate File 2014 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2014

BY GARRETT

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the membership of the district judicial
2 nominating commissions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 46.3, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2022, are
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The governor shall appoint ~~five~~ six eligible electors
4 of each judicial election district to the district judicial
5 nominating commission.

6 3. No more than ~~a simple majority~~ half of the commissioners
7 appointed shall be of the same gender.

8 Sec. 2. Section 46.6, subsection 2, Code 2022, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 2. ~~The judge of longest service in the district shall serve~~
11 ~~as the chair of a particular district judicial nominating~~
12 ~~commission. If the judges of longest service in the district~~
13 ~~are of equal service, the eldest of such judges shall be~~
14 ~~chairperson of the particular judicial nominating commission~~
15 commissioners of the district judicial nominating commission
16 shall elect a chairperson from their own number. The
17 chairperson shall serve a two-year term that expires on April
18 30 of even-numbered years. A commissioner may be reelected
19 for a second or third term as chairperson. If a chairperson
20 of a judicial nominating commission desires to be relieved
21 of the duties of chairperson while retaining the status of
22 commissioner, the chairperson shall notify the governor and the
23 other commissioners of the commission. At the next meeting of
24 the commission, the commissioners shall elect a new chairperson
25 for the remainder of the two-year term.

26 EXPLANATION

27 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
28 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29 This bill relates to the district judicial nominating
30 commissions. Under current law, the governor appoints five
31 eligible electors of each judicial district to the 11-person
32 commission. The bill changes the amount of electors to six and
33 provides that no more than half of the commissioners appointed
34 shall be of the same gender.

35 Under current law, the most senior judge in the district

1 serves as a commissioner and as the chairperson of that
2 particular district judicial nominating commission. The
3 bill removes the judge from the commission and from being
4 chairperson and the members of each district judicial
5 nominating commission elect a chairperson from their own
6 number.

7 District judicial nominating commissions are responsible
8 for screening applicants and selecting nominees for district
9 court judicial vacancies. There is a nominating commission for
10 each of Iowa's 14 judicial election subdistricts. District
11 nominating commissions provide the governor with a slate of
12 two nominees from which to make an appointment to the district
13 court.